

Dear Mr. Brezhnev,

The undersigned are persons who have spent many years in working actively for the normalisation of international relations, and seeking an end to the numerous problems which were created by the Cold War.

We are writing to you to ask for your intervention in a case which has been drawn to our attention, which concerns some of your own citizens, Jews who were tried in the Riazan Regional Court in February 1970. Apparently they had in their possession an appeal to Bertrand Russell. It appears that in at least one of your courts such an act is regarded as culpable. We respectfully ask you to consider the fact that Bertrand Russell, who was actively engaged in our general concern for the preservation of world peace, cannot justly be accused of enmity to your country or its people. He worked for Jews, Arabs and many peoples in need of help. The fact that he received appeals from political prisoners in more than forty different nations is well-known, and such activity on behalf of civil liberties did not in any way impede his overall efforts for peace and disarmament, against colonial oppression and for the free development of all nations outside the boundaries of terror which have become established in the nuclear age. Indeed Bertrand Russell was among the very first to work for the restoration of contact between scientists of East and West at the height of the Cold War.

We should be most grateful if you could examine the case in question, and secure appropriate redress for the persons who have apparently been condemned for acts which embody no discernable wrong-doing. In doing this, you would be acting to uphold an objective view of the historic achievements of Bertrand Russell, and contributing to the continuing development of civilised dialogue between countries with different social systems and ideologies.

December 28, 1971

Madam:

The enclosures mentioned in your letter of the 20th to Mr. Cyrus Eaton were not included in the envelope. Would you please be good enough to have someone send a copy of the document in question, as well as the letter to Mr. Brezhnev, to Mr. Eaton.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to Mr. Eaton

The Rt. Hon. Countess Russell
3 & 4 Shavers Place
Haymarket
London, S. W. 1, England

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